



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Hall of Fame Spotlights Small Businesses that Grew Into National and World Business Leaders with Help from SBA

WASHINGTON – The best of the best – 23 businesses that started small but with big dreams for success – will be honored as inductees into the U.S. Small Business Administration Golden Anniversary Hall of Fame Sept. 19.

The list of inductees is a “who’s who” of some of the country’s most successful companies, many of which have become international leaders in their field, including, Intel, Hewlett Packard, Federal Express, Winnebago, Staples and a host of others.

“What most people don’t know is that all of these big businesses started out small and received help from the SBA. Their success was the result of hard work and an unwavering commitment to excellence,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto, “and the SBA is proud to have played a small part in the pursuit of their dreams.”

Barreto will be presenting many of the CEOs and top officers of these firms with their Hall of Fame trophies during the closing ceremony of the National Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo in Washington, D.C., 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19. Plaques commemorating these inductees will be displayed in the SBA’s Headquarters.

Before the display finds its permanent home in Washington, D.C., it will travel across the country as part of the SBA’s 50th anniversary, going on display at 10 regional meetings through the rest of the year and into early 2004. The Hall of Fame will be expanded each year as new inductees are recognized during the annual NECE conference in Washington, D.C.

Nominations for inductees were received from around the country from district and regional SBA offices. In addition to having received SBA assistance at some point, each nominated business was required to meet the following criteria: exemplary leadership in the business community; outstanding innovation; sustained growth, creating jobs and opportunities for others in their community; great diligence to overcome significant hardships to achieve success; outstanding dedication to their community.

For more information about the firms inducted into the Golden Anniversary Hall of Fame, and about all the events surrounding the SBA’s 50th anniversary, go to www.sba.gov/50/. Following are the inductees into the SBA Golden Anniversary Hall of Fame.

- **Allen-Edmonds Shoe Corporation**, shoe manufacturer, Port Washington, Wis., SBA 7(a) loans totaling \$2,265,000 from 1979-1989;

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- **Alvarado Construction, Inc.**, Denver, Colo., commercial construction contractor, SBA loan in 1979 for \$100,000 and 8(a) program graduate;
- **America Online, Inc.**, interactive services company, Dulles, Va., five SBA-licensed SBIC venture capital financings for \$1,250,943 from 1985-1987;
- **Black Enterprise Magazine**, monthly publication, New York, N.Y., SBA financial assistance 1969, \$175,000 loan;
- **Callaway Golf Company**, golf clubs, golf balls and accessories manufacturer, Carlsbad, Calif., two SBA-licensed SBICs provided \$1,008,100 in venture capital from 1985-1990;
- **Cerner Corporation**, medical information systems designer, Kansas City, Mo., \$200,000 7(a) loan in 1983 and SBA-licensed SBIC financing of \$630,000 in 1986;
- **El Dorado Furniture**, furniture manufacturer, Opa Locka, Fla, SBA loan of \$10,000 in 1967;
- **Eskimo Joe's**, restaurant and apparel, Stillwater, Okla., \$498,000 SBA loan in 1985;
- **FedEx Corporation**, overnight delivery company, Memphis, Tenn., five SBA-licensed SBICs provided \$3,792,000 in 1973 and 1974;
- **General Mills, Inc. for the Totino's Pizza Brand**, frozen pizza manufacturer and distributor, Minneapolis, Minn., \$50,000 SBA 7(a) loan for Totino's Finer Foods in 1963;
- **Hewlett-Packard Company**, computers and imaging devices, Palo Alto, Calif., Compaq Computer, received \$250,000 in venture capital funding (HP and Compaq merged in 2002);
- **Intel Corporation**, semiconductor chip manufacturer, Santa Clara, Calif., SBA-licensed SBIC invested \$299,390 in 1969;
- **Jenny Craig, Inc.**, personal weight-loss management, Carlsbad, Calif., SBA-licensed SBIC invested \$9,000,000 financing in 2002;
- **Manufacturing Technology, Inc.**, military and aerospace technology, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., 8(a) program graduate and 7(a) loans for \$250,000 in 1989, \$200,000 in 1990;
- **Outback Steakhouse, Inc.**, restaurants, Tampa, Fla., SBA-licensed SBIC invested \$150,972 in 1990;
- **Panda Restaurant Group, Inc.**, restaurants, Rosemead, Calif., 7(a) loan for \$25,000 in 1973;
- **Radio One, Inc.**, radio network, Lanham, Md., SBA-licensed SBIC loans totaling \$9.5 million from six venture capital firms from 1995-1999;
- **Ruiz Foods**, frozen Mexican food manufacturer and distributor, Dinuba, Calif., 7(a) loans in 1977 and 1979 totaling \$275,000; SCORE counseling;
- **Staples, Inc.**, office supply stores, Framingham, Mass., SBA-licensed SBIC provided \$1.5 million in 1987;
- **Sun Microsystems, Inc.**, Santa Clara, Calif., computer network systems, SBA-licensed SBIC assistance for \$30,000;
- **The Gymboree Corporation**, child development programs and clothing, Burlingame, Calif., five SBA-licensed SBICs invested \$4,996,964 million from 1987-1990
- **Winnebago Industries, Inc.**, recreational vehicle manufacturer, Forest City, Iowa, \$75,000 7(a) loan in 1960; SBA community development loan for \$390,000, 1965;
- **Yoshida Group**, diversified products and business services, Portland, Ore., two \$75,000 7(a) loans in 1977 and 1980.